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PRESS RELEASE

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LEXINGTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN COURTHOUSE BOMB THREAT

Terrell L. Harris, United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, announced the conviction today of a Henderson County man, **Harry Lee Collier**, 20, of Lexington, Tennessee. Collier was indicted on June 18, 2001, by the federal grand jury in Jackson and charged with one count of **Making a Telephone Threat to Damage or Destroy a Building by Explosive** in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 844(e). Collier entered his guilty plea to the charge this morning in United States District Court and faces up to ten (10) years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.00, or both, for his role in the offense. Sentencing is scheduled for May 3, 2002, before Chief U.S. District Judge James D. Todd.

Collier's indictment resulted from an investigation of a call received by Lexington 911 dispatchers on June 7, 2001, threatening to blow up the Henderson County Courthouse. After receiving the call, Lexington officials evacuated 200 people from the courthouse and kept it closed for 2½ hours while a search was conducted.

In announcing the guilty plea, Harris had special praise for the cooperation with the FBI investigation by the Henderson County Sheriff's Office. The case was investigated by

Henderson County Investigator O'Neal Ellis and FBI Special Agent Daryl Berry of the Jackson FBI Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney Len Register prosecuted the case for the government.